

Henrietta M. Halliday House
(Irish Chancery)
2234 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

HABS No. DC-261

HABS
DC
WASH,
204-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HENRIETTA M. HALLIDAY HOUSE
(IRISH CHANCERY)

HABS No. DC-261

DC, WASH, 204-

Location: 2234 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.;
on the south side of Massachusetts Avenue and
Sheridan Circle. UTM: 18. 322220 .4308740

Present Owner: The Government of Ireland

Present Occupant: The Government of Ireland

Present Use: Chancery

Statement of Significance: This semidetached limestone residence in the Louis XVI manner has two major facades (Massachusetts Avenue and Sheridan Circle). The structure covers most of the fan-shaped lot except for a small section which serves as a light well. The interior circulation and rooms which are designed about a central stair hall, as well as the combination of reflective surfaces and natural light, produce an illusion of greater space.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Lot and Square:

The building is located in Square 2511, lot 41 (formerly part of lot 3 in Block 5, "Kalorama Heights").

B. Original and Subsequent Owners:

The following chain of title to the property shows the owners of the present structure and of any known preceding structures on the site:

1906 Deed May 16, 1906, recorded May 17, 1906 in
Liber 2950 folio 398

William Pitt Kellogg et ux,
Mary E.
To
Henrietta M. Halliday

This Deed...Witnesseeth, That William P. Kellogg and Mary E. Kellogg, his wife, both of the State of Louisiana, temporarily residing in the District of Columbia, parties hereto of the first part, in consideration of Twelve Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-three (\$12,663) Dollars, do hereby grant unto Henrietta M. Halliday, of the District of Columbia, party hereto of the second part, in fee simple, the following described

land and premises...situated in the County of Washington, District of Columbia, namely: Part of Lot...(3) in Block ...(5) 'Kalorama Heights', as per plat thereof recorded in Liber County # 7, folio 34, of the Records of the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia, described by metes and bounds, as follows: Beginning for the same at the most northerly corner of said Lot...(3) and running thence southwesterly on Sheridan Circle...21.676 feet to land conveyed to Mary Eddy Driggs, by Deed recorded among the Land Records of the District of Columbia, in Liber # 2166, folio 351; thence southeasterly along the line of said Driggs land...83.91 feet to a point in the dividing line between lots...(3) and...(4) distant...26.41 feet northeasterly from the most southerly corner of said Lot...(3); thence northeasterly with the dividing line between Lots...(3) and...(4)...73.59 feet to the southerly line of Massachusetts Avenue; and thence northwesterly on said southerly line...52.28 feet to the place of beginning..."

NOTE: June 26, 1908 Henrietta M. Halliday subdivided part of lot 3, Block 5, "Kalorama Heights", into lot 41. Recorded in County Book 23, folio 187, Office of the Surveyor District of Columbia.

1911 Deed January 31, 1911, recorded February 1, 1911 in Liber 3390 folio 481

Henrietta M. Halliday, widow of Edward C.
To
Anna Jenness Miller

Lot 41 in Henrietta M. Halliday's Subdivision of parts of Block 5, "Kalorama Heights."

1916 Trust January 21, 1916, recorded January 21, 1916 in Liber 3861 folio 131

Anna Jenness Miller, widow
To
Hobbs and Quinter, Trustees

"...Whereas, the said Anna Jenness Miller is justly indebted unto Harry Wardman in the full sum of Twenty-one Thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars...the party of the first part, in consideration of the premises and of one dollar lawful money...has granted unto the parties of the second part, in fee simple..."

Lot 41, Block 5, "Kalorama Heights."

1916 Trustee's Deed August 10, 1916, recorded August 11, 1916 in
Liber 3914 folio 108

James D. Hobbs
Hubbert R. Quinter
To
Howard A. Schladt

"...And Whereas, default having been made in the payment of the...debt, the parties of the first part, in execution of the trust declared in said Deed [Liber 3861, folio 131],... after previous public advertisement...for eleven days in the Evening Star Newspaper proceeded to make sale of said land and premises and appurtenances, and on the eighth day of August 1916...did sell the same at public auction unto Howard A. Schladt who as the highest and best bidder therefor, became the purchaser...for the sum of Twenty-one Thousand (\$21,000) Dollars subject to a prior Deed of Trust for Fifty Thousand (\$50,000) Dollars..."

1916 Fee Simple Deed August 22, 1916, recorded September 5, 1916 in
Liber 3918 folio 147

Howard A. Schladt, unmarried
To
Bernhardt Meuser

1916 Deed October 31, 1916, recorded October 24, 1916 in
Liber 3929 folio 131

Bernhardt Meuser et ux,
Elizabeth
To
Charlotte Jane Isabelle McDonald

"This Deed...by and between Bernhardt Meuser and Elizabeth Meuser, his wife, of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, parties hereto of the first part, and Charlotte Jane McDonald, of the City of Washington, District of Columbia, party of the second part...the parties of the first part do hereby grant unto the party of the second part, in fee simple...[lot 41, Block 5, 'Kalorama Heights'] subject to an encumbrance of record in the amount of Fifty Thousand dollars (\$50,000), which the party of the second part assumes and agrees to pay as part of the consideration for these presents..."

1926 Deed March 1, 1926, recorded March 2, 1926 in
Liber 5680 folio 481

Isabelle, Marchioness of Huntley
(formerly Charlotte J. I. McDonald)
To
Harry Wardman
James D. Hobbs
(joint tenants)

1929 Deed November 8, 1929, recorded February 2, 1930 in
Liber 6407 folio 459

Harry Wardman
James D. Hobbs
To
Robert N. Taylor
K. Parrish Wood, Jr.
(joint tenants)

1929 Fee Simple Deed November 9, 1929, recorded January 3, 1930 in
Liber 6408 folio 216

Robert N. Taylor
K. Parrish Wood, Jr.
(joint tenants)
To
Lillian R. Wardman, Trustee

1930 Deed July 11, 1930, recorded July 12, 1930 in
Liber 6465 folio 469

Lillian R. Wardman, Trustee
To
Garnett Crossan Dick

1945 Deed January 12, 1945, recorded January 29, 1945 in
Liber 8063 folio 411

Garnett Crossan Douglas
To
Ronald Ferree Dick

"This Deed...by and between Garnett Crossan Douglas (formerly
Garnett Crossan Dick) of the City of Newport...State of Rhode
Island, party hereto of the first part; and Ronald Ferree Dick,
of the said City of Newport, party hereto of the second part
..."

1945 Deed September 19, 1945, recorded September 29, 1945 in
Liber 8162 folio 515

Garnett Crossan Douglas
(Ancillary Guardian of the Estate of
Ronald Ferree Dick, a minor)

To

Margaret Good Van Clief (devisee under the Will of
Ray Alan Van Clief, deceased)

"...for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred and
five thousand (\$105,000) Dollars..."

NOTE: The Will of Margaret Good Van Clief was recorded August
5, 1949 in Will Book No. 392, page No. 508, Registrar
of Wills, District of Columbia.

sons: Ray Alan Van Clief, Jr.
Daniel Good Van Clief

1949 Deed August 19, 1949, recorded August 25, 1949 in
Liber 9035 folio 164

Daniel Good Van Clief
Ray Alan Van Clief
First and Merchants National Bank of Richmond
To
The Government of Ireland

"This Deed...by and between Daniel Good Van Clief and Ray
Alan Van Clief, both residing at Esmont, Albermarle County,
Virginia, and First and Merchants National Bank of Richmond
...Under the last Will and Testament of Margaret Good Van Clief,
late of Esmont, Albermarle County, Virginia, acting pursuant
to the power and authority to them granted by paragraph second
of said will, parties of the first part, and the Government
of Ireland, party of the second part...for and in consideration
of Seventy-two Thousand Dollars (\$72,000)..."

Source: Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D.C.

C. Date of Erection:

The building was begun in June 1908 and completed in September 1909.

D. Building Permits

The applications for the following building permits were filed by
the architect, contractor or owner's agent and provide significant
data:

No. 4046, June 18, 1908

Permit to build dwelling

Owner: Mrs. Henrietta M. Halliday

Architect: W. P. Cresson

Builder: Frank L. Wagner

Estimated cost: \$40,000.

Filed with No. 4046, June 18, 1908

Application for Building Projection No. 72792, July 21, 1908

"It is desired to extend the face of the basement wall below water table six inches beyond the building line, as shown by accompanying tracing and for the reason stated in the accompanying letter. It is also necessary to make a further projection at the main entrance of nine inches by a width of 15'-6" to carry pilasters about doorway, shown by front elevations submitted herewith."

No. 357, July 30, 1908

Permit to Repair or Reconstruct Building

Owner: Mrs. E. C. Halliday

Architect: William P. Cresson

Contractor: Frank L. Wagner

Cost of improvement: \$100.

"To extend face of basement wall below water table 6" beyond building line with a projection 9" X 15'-6" to carry pilasters."

No. 5635, June 6, 1911

Permit for Repairs, Alterations, etc.:

Owner: A. J. Miller

Architect: Boal & Brown

Contractor: Langley

Estimated cost: \$3,000.

Location: Lot 3, Square 2511

"Change main stair, build partitions, brick up openings, cut openings, minor interior repairs. Structural features of building not disturbed. Change location of plumbing fixtures in one bath and in one basin. One new bath."

No. 6100, June 28, 1911

Permit for Repairs, Alterations, etc.

Owner: A. J. Miller

Architect: Boal & Brown

Contractor: Langley

*Address: 2236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

"Remove 13" brick wall on 2nd floor. Put in beam support and iron beams. Build bay windows in rear, one story high, fireproof: 3'-0" X 11'-0". Iron beams over openings as per plans on file."

*Main floor plan filed with permit and the description of the building indicate that 2234 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. is

the same building. (See reproduction of floor plan.)

No. 4653, April 2, 1913

Permit for Repairs, Alterations, etc.:

Owner: A. J. Miller

Estimated cost: \$500.

"Iron and glass marquise to main entrance for Anna
Jenness Miller."

Filed with No. 4653, April 2, 1913

Special Application for Building Projection

One marquise: 6'-6" projection
11'-5" width

No. 5557, May 19, 1913

Permit to install one electric passenger elevator: 3'4" X 3'4"

Owner: Anna J. Miller

Mechanic: Otis Elevator Company

Cost: \$2,450

Location: South side of building

Source: Record Group 351, Records of the District of Columbia, Building
Permits 1877-1949, the Legislative and Natural Resources Branch,
Civil Div., National Archives/Records Service, Washington, D. C.

E. Alterations and Additions:

The interior was extensively altered by Boal & Brown in 1911.
(See Permits No. 5635 and No. 6100.) The main floor plan
filed with Permit No. 6100 indicated the changes made to Cresson's
original design. (See reproduction.)

The principal bedroom floor appears to have been remodeled
after 1930.

F. Original Architect: William Penn Cresson, Washington, D.C.
Architect for Alterations (1911): Boal & Brown, Washington, D.C.

William Penn Cresson, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Hilbourne Thompson
Cresson, was born in Claymont, Delaware on September 17, 1873.
Cresson attended the University of Pennsylvania from 1895 to
1897 and then became a student at the Ecole des Beaux Arts until
1902. In 1902 he studied at the Ecole des Sciences Politiques.

Cresson came to Washington, D.C. in 1905 where he practiced
architecture for two or three years. The city directories list
"Wyeth & Cresson, architects" at 1517 H Street, N.W. in 1906
and 1907. In 1908 "Wm. P. Cresson" and "Nathan C. Wyeth" were
listed separately, but still at 1517 H Street. Correspondence

filed with the original building permit (No. 4046, June 18, 1908), was written under the following letterhead and signed by W. P. Cresson:

Joint Offices of
Nathan C. Wyeth
William P. Cresson
Architects

McLean Building
1517 H Street
Washington, D.C.
Telephone: Main 507

Mrs. E.C. Halliday's residence at 2234 Massachusetts Avenue was built in 1908 and 1909, but neither permits nor drawings indicate that Wyeth was involved in the design.

At various times in his life, Cresson was an architect, rancher, diplomat, author and professor of international law. In 1907 he left Washington to become a cattle rancher in Nevada for two years. His diplomatic career began in 1909 with his appointment as Secretary to the American Legation at Lima, Peru. Later posts included: Second Secretary to the American Embassy, London (1912-1913); Secretary to the American Legation at Quito, Ecuador (1913-1914); Secretary to the American Legation, Panama (1914-1915); Secretary to the American Embassy, Petrograd (1915-1917); and Secretary to the American Legation, Lisbon (1917).

During World War I, Cresson was commissioned as Lieutenant in the Air Service of the Signal Officer's Reserve Corps and subsequently promoted to Captain. After the war, he continued his service as a Major in the Reserve Officers Corps - as well as accepting a post as Assistant Professor of International Law at Princeton. He later became Fletcher Professor of International Law at Tufts College.

Cresson remained active in diplomatic affairs - serving as Secretary at the Conference on Limitation of Armament in Washington in 1921 and 1922; and Secretary at the Sixth Pan American Conference in Havana in 1928.

His writings include:

"Persia, The Awakening East"
"The Cossacks, Their History and Country"
"The Holy Alliance"
"Diplomatic Portraits"

In 1921 Cresson and Miss Margaret French, daughter of Daniel Chester French, sculptor, were married. They maintained homes in Washington, D.C. and Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Cresson died in Stockbridge on May 12th, 1932.

Sources: Who Was Who in America 1897-1942: A Companion Volume to Who's Who in America, Vol. I, Chicago: The A. N. Marquis Co., 1942.

The New York Times, 5-13-32, 16:1 (obituary).

Theodore D. Boal (1867-1938), son of George Jack Boal, was born in Iowa City, Iowa. He attended Harvard University and was graduated from the University of Iowa. He then studied in Paris at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts.

Boal was listed under "Architects" in the Washington city directories from 1906 through 1909. From 1910 through 1916, the architectural firm of Boal & Brown was listed at 1725 H Street.

In 1916 Boal organized and financed the "Boal Troop", later designated Company A, 107th Machine Gun Battalion. The troop served on the Mexican border and then overseas. Col. Theodore Boal received the Croix de Guerre, the Distinguished Service Cross, and was an officer of the French Legion of Honor.

After World War I, he returned to his estate in the town of Boalsburg, Pennsylvania.

Source: The New York Times, 8-23-38, 17:4 (obituary).

Ward Brown (1877-1946) was born in San Francisco, California. He studied architecture at the Armour Institute in Chicago and the Atelier Paulin at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris - as well as other European schools.

Brown came to Washington in 1906 and continued his training under practicing architects. In 1910 he joined Theodore D. Boal to form Boal & Brown.

Boal & Brown carried out the extensive interior alterations of 2234 Massachusetts Avenue in 1911. Brown "designed the Netherlands Embassy and the Austrian...[Embassy] building, also a number of private residences in Washington and environs. In later years Mr. Brown made his home in Alexandria, Va., devoting his attention to the restoration of historic homes there and in Georgetown." (Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased))

Sources: Henry F. Withey and Elsie R. Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956.

The Evening Star, 10-14-46, 2:8 (obituary).

G. Known Plans, Drawings, Elevations, etc.:

Elevation on Massachusetts Avenue. Blueprint. Scale 1/4"=1'
Filed with Permit No. 4046, June 18, 1908

"Residence for Mrs. E. C. Halliday. Sheridan Circle
and Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C.
W. P. Cresson, Archt. "

(see reproduction)

Projection plan. Ink on linen. Scale 1/4"=1'
Filed with Permit No. 4046, June 18, 1908

"Residence for Mrs. E. C. Halliday. Sheridan Circle
Massachusetts Ave., Washington, D.C.
W. P. Cresson, Archt.
1517 H St., N.W. "

(see reproduction)

Plan of main [second] floor. Blueprint. Scale 1/4" = 1'
Filed with Permit No. 6100, June 28, 1911

"Changes in Residence, Sheridan Circle & Mass. Ave.
Boal & Brown, Archt.
1725 H St., Washington, D.C. "

(see reproduction)

Elevation and plan of marquise. Ink on linen. Scale 1/2"=1'
Filed with Permit No. 4653, April 2, 1913

H. Important Old Views: None found.

I. Residents:

1. City and telephone directories list the following tenants:

1909-1913	No listing
1914-1916	Mrs. Anna Jenness Miller
1917-1919	Arthur B. Campbell
1920-1923	Mrs. Charlotte I. McDonald
1924-1931	Vacant
1932-1942	Charles M. Dick
1943	Richard S. Rheen
1944	Mrs. Gordon Douglas
1945-1946	No listing
1947-1949	Mrs. Ray A. Van Clief
1950	Irish Legation
1951-1972	Embassy of Ireland, Chancery

2. Biographies of the residents:

Henrietta M. Halliday, widow of Edward C. Halliday, was listed in the Washington city directories from 1906 through 1908 at 1814 N Street. Her husband, Edward C. Halliday, had been listed in the District of Columbia from 1890 through 1904 at the same address. He died sometime before June 7, 1905 when his will, as recorded in Will Book No. 61, page 228, was admitted to probate. The will states:

I give and bequeath to my wife Henrietta M. Halliday the sum of One hundred thousand dollars...to be paid to her in lawful money of these United States as soon after my decease as circumstances may reasonably permit...I also give and devise to my said wife, her heirs and assign forever, the house and lot now owned and occupied by me, situate on the southerly side of N Street northwest between Connecticut Avenue and Nineteenth Street in the City of Washington, District of Columbia and known as...1814 N Street northwest, the lot being further indicated as number...(68) of E. C. Halliday's subdivision in Square...(139) as recorded in book...11 of subdivision page...191 Surveyor's Records, District of Columbia...

In May 1906 Mrs. Halliday purchased the Sheridan Circle lot on which 2234 Massachusetts Avenue was to be built; and in June 1908 "Mrs. Henrietta M. Halliday" was issued a permit to build a dwelling on her lot. Although the house was completed in 1909, Mrs. Halliday was never listed at her new address.

Mrs. Halliday owned other Massachusetts Avenue properties. In 1911 she bought The Wendell Mansion apartments from Anna Jenness Miller (Liber 3390, folio 480, Recorder of Deeds); and in 1922 she was deeded 2305 Massachusetts Avenue by Harry Wardman (Liber 4707, folio 249, Recorder of Deeds) - only to deed it back to him eight months later (Liber 4876, folio 27, Recorder of Deeds).

The Will of Henrietta M. Halliday, recorded in Will Book No. 116, page 24, was admitted to probate December 31, 1923. A letter filed with the Will valued Mrs. Halliday's estate at \$1,930,870.57.

Anna Jenness Miller, widow of Conrad, purchased 2234 Massachusetts Avenue in 1911. In 1898 "Conrad Miller, publisher" was listed in the city directories at "Phelps c. LeRoy Place". This was the house which Thomas F. Walsh bought, completely furnished, in 1899 before construction of 2020 Massachusetts Avenue was begun. Evalyn Walsh McLean wrote:

We called the house always, 'LeRoy and Phelps Place'...The house was three story yellow brick with tile roof...It had been the home of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Jenness Miller; Conrad was a minor celebrity in Washington, a widely traveled lecturer...
(Father Struck It Rich, p. 53)

In 1899 Conrad was listed at The Cairo, and from 1900 through 1909 he was not listed in city directories. Then, Annie J. Miller's name appeared separately in 1910. Her husband had apparently died sometime between 1900 and 1909, since she was eventually listed at 2234 Massachusetts Avenue in 1914 as "Anna Jenness Miller (widow of Conrad)".

Mrs. Anna Jenness Miller was an author and lecturer:

For several years...[she] was proprietor and editor of the Jenness-Miller Monthly, a magazine published in New York and devoted to physical development and improved dress. Upon these topics she gave over eleven hundred lectures in the principal cities of the United States and Canada. Among her books may be mentioned Twixt Love and Marriage, Mother and Babe, How to Finish and Furnish a Home, Creating a Home, and the Philosopher of Driftwood. She also wrote the chapter on Dress for the revised Johnson's Encyclopedia...At the close of her platform work, Mrs. Jenness-Miller lived abroad for years, where she became interested in collecting paintings and curios. She has built many artistic houses. Her latest venture is Wendell Mansions, 2339 Massachusetts Avenue, where she resides now. (American Biographical Directories, District of Columbia 1908-1909)

Her several years abroad "collecting paintings and curios" probably included her work for Thomas F. Walsh, as Evalyn Walsh McLean related:

My father had hired Mrs. Anna Jenness Miller to scout around and help my mother buy just what was needed for that house; it was a job that lasted several years...She even went abroad to get some choicer paintings and the bric-a-brac we needed...(Father Struck It Rich, p. 92)

In 1910 and 1911 Anna Jenness Miller lived at 2339 Massachusetts Avenue; and then after two years at 2117 Le Roy Place, N.W., she resided at 2234 Massachusetts Avenue from 1914 through 1916.

Sources: American Biographical Directories, District of Columbia, 1908-1909, Washington, D.C.: The Potomac Press, 1908.

Evalyn Walsh McLean, with Boyden Sparkes, Father Struck It Rich, Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1936.

Charlotte Jane Isabelle McDonald (later the Marchioness of Huntley), the daughter of John F. Fallon, purchased 2234 Massachusetts Avenue in 1916. Her husband, James McDonald, had died January 13, 1915 in their home at 1701 22nd Street, N.W.. Mr. McDonald, a native of Scotland who came to the United States in 1840 at the age 15, had organized the European Branch of Standard Oil. For many years, he and his family lived in London where McDonald handled Standard Oil's European and Asian Affairs. Besides his wife, McDonald left a son, James, Jr., and a stepson, Arthur B. Campbell (Charlotte Jane Isabelle McDonald's son).

Source: The New York Times, 1-14-15, 11:4 (obituary).
The Washington Post, 1-14-15, 14:6 (obituary).

Arthur B. Campbell (1888-1954) served as a captain in the U. S. Army in World War I. From 1917 through 1919 his home was listed in the directories at 2234 Massachusetts Avenue. Later, after serving in the U. S. diplomatic service, he became a vice-president of Riggs National Bank of Washington.

Source: The New York Times, 7-23-54, 17:6 (obituary).

In 1922 Arthur Campbell's mother, Mrs. McDonald, became the Marchioness of Huntley, the second wife of the 11th Marquess of Huntley. The Marchioness died in Petersburg, England in May 1939.

She had sold her residence at 2234 Massachusetts Avenue to Harry Wardman and James D. Hobbs on March 1, 1926.

Source: The New York Times, 5-18-39, 25:2 (obituary).

Harry Wardman (1873-1938) speculated in real estate over much of northwest Washington. The New York Times, March 19, 1938 noted:

There was a time, not more than ten years ago, when it was believed that Mr. Wardman was landlord to about one-tenth of all the private residents in Washington.

He bought "2234" in 1926 and, according to the directories, left it vacant through 1930 when it was sold again.

Wardman, born in Yorkshire, England, came to America in 1893 "with 7 shillings" in his pocket. When he first arrived in Washington, D.C. in 1895, he worked as a carpenter. Noting the lack of housing for government employees, he started to build "plain, low priced apartment houses and simple private dwellings...and later larger apartments for more money and more sumptuous hotels." (The New York Times, 3-19-38)

Two of these "sumptuous hotels" were the Wardman Park and the Carlton. In 1916 construction began on the Wardman Park Hotel (now the Sheraton Park Hotel) on Woodley Road and Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Many thought the project would be a failure because a luxury hotel had never been built so far from the center of the city. The sceptics were proven wrong. In 1926 the Carlton Hotel was built on the site of H. H. Richardson's Anderson House at 16th and K Streets, N.W. The 250 room Carlton cost more than \$3,000,000 to build.

Other Wardman apartments and hotels included:

Brighton Hotel	2123 California St., N.W.
The Cathedral Mansions	
Center:	3000 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
North:	3100 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
The Castleton Hotel:	1710 16th St., N.W.
The Conard (apartments)	1228 I St., N.W.
The Dresden (apartments)	2226 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Hay-Adams Hotel	800 16th St., N.W.
The Highlands (apartments)	1914 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
The Roosevelt Hotel	16th St. between V and W St., N.W.
Stoneleigh Court (apartment-hotel)	Connecticut Ave. and L St., N.W.
Park Lane Hotel	London, England

At the height of its speculative success Wardman Real Estate Properties, Inc. owned property valued at \$30,000,000. However, with the Depression, Wardman started to suffer severe losses and sold many of his larger holdings.

Sources: The Evening Star, 6-4-35, B1:1.
The Evening Star, 3-19-38, 2:1 (obituary).
The New York Times Magazine, "Another Dick Whittington Returns", by William Atherton DuPuy, 10-11-25 p. 9.
The New York Times, 3-19-38, 15:3 (obituary).
The Washington Post, 3-19-38, 1:2 (obituary).
The Washington Post, Potomac, "The Washington Wardman Built", by Carl Bernstein, 2-16-69, pp. 23-32.
The Washington Herald, 5-26-19, 6:5.
The Washington Herald, 10-22-32, 1:3.
The Washington Herald, 7-8-36, 11:1.
The Washington Herald, 3-19-38, 1:2 (obituary).

Garnett Crossan Dick (later Douglas), wife of C. Mathews Dick owned the house from 1930 until 1945. She was divorced from C. Mathews Dick in 1943, and remarried one month later to Gordon Douglas:

Mrs. Dick of 2234 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.... considered one of the District's best dressed hostesses, and Gordon Douglas, wealthy socialite and New York businessman, were married last week at the Arlington Court House...Mr. Douglas has entertained extensively at his home at Newport, R. I., and at Palm Beach, Fla. He met Mrs. Dick at Newport several years ago. (The Sunday Star, June 6, 1943)

Mrs. Dick had two sons - C. Mathews Dick, Jr. age 18 and Ronald Dick, age 15.

Source: The Sunday Star, 6-6-43, 6:5.

Mrs. Margaret Good Van Clief, widow of Ray Alan Van Clief, bought the residence in September 1945. Her husband was a landowner in Virginia and Newport, Rhode Island, and a well-known "industrialist, horse-breeder, and yachtsman." (The New York Times, 4-5-48) During World War II, Mr. Van Clief served as a special consultant to the War Manpower Commission. He died in June 1945.

Mrs. Van Clief died in April 1948 at the family estate "Nydrie", near Esmont, Virginia. She left two sons, Ray Alan and Daniel Good Van Clief, who sold 2234 Massachusetts Avenue to the Irish Republic in 1949.

Sources: The Evening Star, 6-29-45, 8:3 (Mr. Van Clief's obituary).
The New York Times, 4-5-48, 21:4 (Mrs. Van Clief's obituary).
The Washington Post, 4-5-48, B 2:6 (Mrs. Van Clief's obituary).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This semidetached structure has a Louis XVI exterior; 18th-century French and English interior details; a polygonal plan. [Floors as in HABS D. C. Catalog.]
2. Condition: The exterior is well maintained. The interior (except for the main floor) was remodeled after 1930.

B. Exterior Description:

1. Overall dimensions: The three and one half story plus basement structure measures 58'-0" from sidewalk to roof ridge. Its plan is polygonal, having two major elevations (one on Massachusetts Avenue, the second on Sheridan Circle). The east party wall is 39'-0" long; the three bay north elevation (the entrance bay on Massachusetts Avenue broken forward slightly), 49'-9"; the one bay northwest elevation (Sheridan Circle), 23'-2"; the southwest party wall, 50'-0"; the one bay southeast elevation (which is broken forward 12'-0" by a 7'-6" south end service stair), 15'-6"; and the one bay south wall, 14'-0".
2. Foundations: concrete footings and slab.
3. Wall construction: The building, faced in tan limestone, has a smooth base capped by a torus and cavetto water table. The rusticated ground floor is separated from the second and third floors by a cyma and block string course which serves as base for a raised-panel, false balustrade. The second and third floors are smooth limestone, except for the corners and the full height of the entrance bay, which are rusticated.
4. Structure: concrete block and brick bearing walls.
5. Mechanical: hot air, oil-burning furnace. Electric lighting. The iron and wood, 1200 lb. Otis passenger elevator was installed in 1913.
6. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: At the northeast corner on Massachusetts Avenue, an urn baluster, limestone balustrade with panelled ends (see elevation drawing) encloses twelve granite risers which ascend east from the basement areaway to grade level.

Approached from the avenue, the entrance stoop has two granite risers flanked by cheek walls with wrought iron panels and scrolls supporting a marquise canopy.

At each second-floor window, the false balustrade is interrupted

by urn balusters, a panel of which breaks forward at the Sheridan Circle facade to form a balcony on concave consoles with guttae and swags.

At the head of the second-floor window above the entrance, a shallow, limestone balcony with a decorative cast and wrought iron railing is supported by acanthus consoles.

7. Chimneys: Visible from the street are three brick chimneys each with limestone cornice and cavetto cap (one at the east party wall, one at the southwest party wall and the last at the building mid-section).
8. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The segmentally-arched street entrance has a recessed, glazed double door with decorative cast and wrought iron grilles; and a limestone architrave of oak leaf pulvination set within voussoirs and interrupted by the keystone.
 - b. Windows: All windows are casement, those on the second floor having transoms.

The ground floor windows are two-lights wide (except for the central north bay which is one-light in width) and have decorative wrought iron grilles, fillet and block sills, and keystones.

The second-floor French windows are two-lights wide, except for two bays (one over the entrance and the second on Sheridan Circle) which are three-lights in width. Each window has a talon architrave, guilloche frieze and acanthus consoles which support a pediment. The bay over the entrance has a pulvinated architrave, recessed within a cove, and an escutcheon keystone.

The third-floor windows and the French door over the entrance are two-lights wide, having crossette talon architraves with guttae at their bases.

9. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The slate mansard roof has limestone coping and a galvanized iron, pulvinated ridge cap with built-up flat roofing behind.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The limestone entablature has a fascia and talon architrave; a plain frieze; and an egg and dart, bracket, corona and cyma cornice. The entablature is capped by a panelled balustrade interrupted by urn balusters centered over each bay.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Each galvanized iron, casement

dormer has panelled pilasters capped by a frieze broken forward to support a segmentally-arched pediment. The exception is the limestone dormer over the entrance. This opening has panelled pilasters flanked by decorative block consoles and capped by a frieze broken forward over either pilaster. Above the frieze is a segmentally-arched pediment having a shell and spray tympanum.

C. Interior Description:

1. Floor plans: Entered by the north entrance vestibule (flanked by closets) the ground floor reception hall on Sheridan Circle gives access to two chambers on Massachusetts Avenue, as well as the main stair at the east and an oval sitting room at the southeast. The sitting room is approached by an elevator vestibule and terminated by the service stair. To the east of the main stair, service rooms connect the sitting room to the chambers on Massachusetts Avenue.

The main stair ascends east to the second-floor apsidal living hall. Immediately at the head, and to the left, is the dining room (north); while to the east are the pantry and the breakfast room, the latter having a bay window overlooking the rear court (south). Connected to the dining room, the drawing room on Sheridan Circle is at the west via the elevator vestibule. (See plan.)

2. Spaces:

Entrance hall:

- a. Flooring: The marble floor has white squares with black insets at the corners.
- b. Baseboard: 6", wood painted cream, with cyma cap.
- c. Walls: plaster, painted.
- d. Cornice: cove.
- e. Ceiling: plaster painted white.
- f. Doorways and doors: All doors have fascia and cyma architraves. The beveled glass double door to the vestibule has decorative cast iron grilles, a rectangular transom and side lights. The convex double door to the sitting room is mirror-paned. The remaining single doors (one to the north rooms and one each to the closets, flanking the vestibule) are panelled.
- g. Hardware: bronze door handles and lock escutcheons.

Stair:

The main stair ascends nine risers on a southeast curve and east eleven additional straight-run risers from the entrance hall to the second-floor living hall. The second flight ascends twenty-four risers east to the third floor; the third proceeds to the dormer level. Each flight has a plaster soffit, painted wood risers and treads, a closed stringer with wave ornament, a wrought iron bar and panel banister, and an oak handrail. (See photograph.)

Living hall: (painted tan. See photograph.)

- a. Flooring: oak, herringbone parquetry with cherry border.
- b. Baseboard: 11", wood with bead and reed cap.
- c. Dado: raised panels with cavetto moulding.
- d. Chairrail: 3'-0" high, wood, fascia and cyma.
- e. Walls: Panels are formed by applied cavetto leaf mouldings with floral drapes and pendants at the top.
- f. Cornice: cyma, egg and dart, cove, leafy roll and cyma.
- g. Ceiling: 13'-6" high, plaster painted white.
- h. Doorways and doors: All doors are mirror-paned and have egg and dart, crossette architraves. The doors are capped by rosette indented panels centered by flower basket escutcheons with swags and sprays.
- i. Hardware: gilded, rocaille door knobs and mortise lock escutcheons.
- j. Lighting: The single chandelier has multiple tiers of crystal pendants hung from a bronze girdle of masks and swags attached by crystal prisms drapes to a bronze acanthus leaf crown.

Drawing room: (Ambassador's office; painted pale yellow. See photograph.)

- a. Flooring: oak, herringbone parquetry.
- b. Baseboard: 11", wood with bead and reed cap.
- c. Dado: panels formed by applied cavetto moulding. Base cabinets to chairrail height flank the south wall chimney.
- d. Chairrail: 3'-0" high, wood, fascia and cyma.

- e. Walls: Between each opening, over both doors and flanking the chimney, are applied, plaster, rocaille wall panels.
- f. Cornice: cyma, egg and dart, cove, leafy roll and cyma.
- g. Ceiling: 13'-6" high, plaster painted white.
- h. Doorways and doors: mirror-paned double doors to living hall and dining room (sliding).
- i. Hardware: gilded, rocaille door pulls, knobs and mortise lock escutcheons.
- j. Lighting: Six, four-light, brass sconces have crystal ball drops and finial. One, ten-light brass, rocaille chandelier has crystal prisms, leaf drops, and pendant.
- k. Heating: The south wall chimney has a grey marble hearth, rectangular black marble insets, and cast-iron firebox with a wreath back panel and lattice surround. The white marble mantel, in the Louis XV manner (4'-0" high by 1'-0" deep) has a curvilinear architrave with acanthus leaf and floral key, and flanking, splayed, acanthus consoles and caps. The overmantel has floral swags and pendants centered by a bird and flower bouquet at the cornice.

Dining room: (painted green. See photographs.)

- a. Flooring: oak, herringbone parquetry with cherry border.
- b. Baseboard: 11", wood with bead and reed cap.
- c. Dado: panels formed by applied cavetto mouldings.
- d. Charrail: 3'-0" high, wood, fascia and cyma.
- e. Walls: Plaster walls have panels of applied ogee mouldings. Mirrors, set in bundled reed brass frames, flank east wall chimney and west wall door to the drawing room.
- f. Cornice: cyma, egg and dart, cove and leafy roll.
- g. Ceiling: 13'-6" high, plaster painted white. There is a pulvinated bay-leaf border moulding punctuated by cornflower rosettes, and a similarly molded central panel with quarter-round indented corners.
- h. Doorways and doors: There is a mirror-paned, sliding double door to the drawing room and a single mirror-paned door to the living hall. The crossett egg and dart architraves each have a guilloche frieze and enriched cornice, capped by a crossette panel which is centered by an oval plaque with sprays and swags. (See detail photograph.)

- i. Hardware: gilded, rocaille door pulls, knobs and mortise lock escutcheons.
- j. Lighting: Each mirror has a two-light, brass sconce. There is a six-light, brass, rocaille chandelier with crystal leaf drops and pendant.
- k. Heating: The east wall chimney has a marble hearth and cast iron firebox and surround. The white trimmed, green marble mantel, in the late Georgian manner (4'-6" high), has candelabra pilasters, a fascia and talon architrave, a frieze with central and terminal decorative plaques, and an egg and dart, corona and cyma shelf.

D. Site:

- 1. Setting and orientation: The building faces north on a lot measuring 52'-3" on the north (Massachusetts Avenue); 73'-7" on the east; 83'-11" on the south; and 27'-8" on the west (Sheridan Circle).
- 2. Enclosures: None.
- 3. Outbuildings: None.
- 4. Walks: North stoop and basement entrance have concrete walks that lead from a semicircular asphalt drive on Massachusetts Avenue.
- 5. Landscaping: There are basswood and ginko trees lining the street, with juniper bushes, a blue spruce, a Canadian whitewood, and grass bordering the building.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This document, made from records donated to the Historic American Buildings Survey by the Commission of Fine Arts, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D. C., represents studies of prime, typical, diversified and sumptuous architecture erected primarily between the years 1890 and 1930, when American society and architecture were greatly influenced by the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. The material, originally organized for adaptation to the Historic American Buildings Survey format, was first published in Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Vol. 1, issued in 1973 by the Commission of Fine Arts, Charles H. Atherton, Secretary; Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary; Jeffrey R. Carson, Architectural Historian; Lynda L. Smith, Historian; and J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr., Architect. Photographs were made for the Commission by Jack E. Boucher, Linwood, New Jersey; J. Alexander, Wheaton, Maryland; and the Commission of Fine Arts Staff. The material, donated December 1973, was coordinated for the HABS Documentation in 1978 by Lucy Pope Wheeler, HABS Writer/Editor. We appreciate the cooperation given the Commission by The Embassy of Ireland, His Excellency William Warnok, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and Mr. Jerome Craig, Third Secretary.